

South Precinct Email Community Newsletter
May 6, 2010



Dear Community Friends:

The Importance of calling 911

A home owner arrived home and discovered that there had been burglary and immediately called 911. Officers were dispatched; the burglars were gone when officers got to the scene. The victim who was waiting outside for officers to arrive saw two suspicious individuals on the street, one of whom was carrying the victim's backpack that had been in the home. The victim was able to give a good description of the suspects, where they were last seen and their direction of travel. Officers did not allow the burglary victim (who was not home at the time) to enter the house in the event that a suspect may still have been inside. Meanwhile other officers set up containment in the area. In short order, the burglars were caught and positively identified by the victim. Detectives were able to connect these suspects to numerous other burglaries in the Precinct.

The primary reason for relaying this event is this: we were able to catch the suspects because we had a person who saw something that didn't look right and called it in to 911. The timely call to 911, the detailed description of the suspects (particularly what they were wearing), the direction of travel and the location where the suspects were last seen all helped us locate and arrest the suspects. For officers, providing this level of timely detail is golden. It's what helps us locate and arrest criminals. Our South Precinct Officers wanted to express their thanks to you. Keep doing what you're doing and keep calling; it does make a difference.

Vigilance works.

Be observant and pay attention to what's happening in your neighborhood and who's out and about in your area. For those of you who work from home or are home during daylight hours, take a look around every now and then and see what's happening on your block. Being conspicuously alert makes potential offenders nervous and will tend to make them seek a place where they have less risk of being seen, identified or caught.

Warm Weather Security Tips

As we enter the warm weather months, we want to reiterate some safety tips to help reduce incidents of burglary and theft.

Close And Lock Windows; Limit How Far They Can Be Opened

When you are away from home, close and lock your windows. If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to a length that prevents the window from being opened more than four inches. For double hung windows, consider sash pins. Some windows have stops on the inside track, which prevent them from being opened too far.

Lock Your Doors

Anytime you leave your home, even if it for a very short amount of time, lock your doors. If you have deadbolt locks, please lock them.

- As always, we advise that you install 3"-4" screws on the strike plates of your exterior doors. These secure the plates to the jamb and the jamb to the framing of the door. This essentially makes the bolt from the lock going into the jamb "extend" in to the frame, making a properly locked door more secure.

Working In The Yard

When working in the yard in the back of the home, do not leave your front door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight, close those doors as well. Be mindful of what are you showing in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by.

Do Not Leave Personal Belongings Unattended

Whether your belongings are in a shopping cart or on a picnic blanket, always maintain positive control over them. Never leave personal belongings unattended in your vehicle. Seattle has a high rate of theft of personal property from vehicles, particularly at public parks.